CTBT

3260. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty has become irrelevant as far as India is concerned;

(b) if so, whether India was under compulsion any more to comply with the terms of CTBT; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Article XIV of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) requires that for the Treaty to Enter into Force it is necessary that all the 44 States listed in the Annex II of the Treaty sign and retify it. India is included in this list. India has stated that it will not stand in the way of the Entry into Force of the Treaty. India is already in *de facto* observance of the spirit of the Treaty by maintaining the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing.

Amendment of Labour Laws

3261. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to amend Labour Laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move has been resisted by Trade Unions; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) With a view to making labour markets flexible, a "Discussion Paper" has been circulated among various stakeholders for eliciting their views. These, *inter-alia*, include:

(i) amendment in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 by placing certain activities in a separate schedule so that provisions of Section 10 may not apply to them, and by replacing the term "emergency" with the term "public interest" in Section 31 of the Act; and

(ii) amendment in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 by raising the number filter from 100 to 300 for applicability of chapter VB and raising the compensation ceiling payable to workers on retrenchement, and on closure of the establishment, from 15 days' average pay to 45 days' average pay for every completed year of continuous service or any part thereof in excess of six months subject to the condition that such retrenchement compensation shall not be less that 90 days of average wages; and by extending the applicability of Section 36 B to all undertaking.

The views of the stakeholders are being received.

ILO convention on international safety of fishermen

3262. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ILO convened a convention on the International Safety of Fishermen in July, 2005;

(b) if so, whether India represented in the convention;

(c) whether Indian representative abstained from the voting on the law on safety of fishermen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reason for abstaining from the voting?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. India alongwith other like-minded 138 countries, decided to abstain from the voting at the time of final record vote during 93rd Session of the ILC in June, 2005, as it was felt by developing countries that the draft Convention was very prescriptive and difficult to implement. The proposed Convention did not adequately address the concerns of the small fishermen who form bulk of the fishing sector in India. The new fishing instrument should be practicable and enforceable in countries like India with diverse ecologies and long coastlines.

ESI hospital in Bangalore

3263. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) has it come to the notice of the Government that lack of proper